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NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Forests

DAWSON CREEK TIMBER SUPPLY ANALYSIS RELEASED

VICTORIA – A new timber supply analysis of the Dawson Creek timber supply area in northeastern British Columbia indicates the allowable annual cut could be increased.

The analysis, one of many sources of information British Columbia chief forester Larry Pedersen will consider in setting the allowable annual cut later this year, was released today along with a public discussion paper. The public is invited to comment until Dec. 9, 2002.

The analysis forecasts a harvest level of 2.078 million cubic metres per year, about 20 per cent higher than the current allowable annual cut of 1.733 million cubic metres set in 1996. The new forecast consists of two components:

- 1.198 million cubic metres per year of coniferous timber, including 100,000 cubic metres per year of small lodgepole pine.
- 880,000 cubic metres per year of deciduous timber.

"The analysis is based on more up-to-date forest inventory information, which resulted in higher-volume projections for the Dawson Creek timber supply area," Pedersen said. "It also takes into account new protected areas, as well as a variety of environmental and land use factors."

The timber supply analysis projects a stable coniferous harvest forecast of 1.198 million cubic metres per year over the next 250 years – about 351,500 cubic metres per year higher than the current coniferous level. The deciduous harvest forecast is similar to the current deciduous level, and is projected to decline after 50 years by about 10 per cent per decade until it reaches a long-term harvest level of 588,000 cubic metres per year.

The Dawson Creek timber supply area covers 2.3 million hectares and includes Dawson Creek, Tumbler Ridge, Chetwynd, Hudson's Hope, and Pouce Coupe, as well as the First Nation communities of West Moberly and Saulteau, and a Metis community at Kelly Lake.

The timber supply analysis report and the public discussion paper are available at the Ministry of Forests Web site at http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tsb/tsr2/tsa/tsa08/tsa08.htm
and at the following Forest Service offices:

- Dawson Creek forest district, 250-784-1200
- Prince George forest region, 250-565-6100

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The chief forester regularly undertakes an independent review that provides an up-to-date assessment of timber supply in each of British Columbia's 37 timber supply areas and 34 tree farm licences, based on the best available information and current management practices.

For more information on the timber supply review, visit http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tsb

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Visit the province's Web site at http://www.gov.bc.ca/ for online information and services.

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